



CGCC-ISSP joint Task Force undertakes tour of East Africa

Between 4 and 14 March 2012, a Task Force of eight security and criminal justice officials from Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda and IGAD embarked on a Study Tour of East Africa. The *Task Force on Legal Cooperation Against Terrorism in the IGAD Subregion* was co-organized by the Center on Global Counterterrorism Cooperation and the IGAD Security Sector Program. The Study Tour was designed to allow the Task Force to engage with colleagues throughout the subregion to develop practical recommendations for strengthening cross-border legal cooperation against terrorism.

The Task Force Program of Work



Stopping in Addis Ababa, Nairobi and Kampala, the Task Force held consultations with delegations from all seven IGAD Member States. The Task Force also met with a number of external partners, including representatives of the African Union Commission; the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development; and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

To further understand the legislative dynamics of cross-border law enforcement cooperation, the Task Force met with senior Ethiopian, Kenyan and Ugandan members of parliament. Institutional, legal

and operational issues were discussed in closed-door meetings with diplomatic, criminal justice, law enforcement, military and intelligence officials.

Upcoming Task Force Final Report



Working with ISSP and CGCC facilitators, Task Force members compiled their findings from the Study Tour into a final report. The report features a series of recommendations to IGAD, its Member States and other stakeholders on practical steps for strengthened legal cooperation against

terrorism. Together, they offer an array of legal, institutional, operational and programmatic entry points for stakeholder action.

The Task Force's recommendations cut across a broad range of issue areas that came up during the course of their Study Tour consultations. Some of these topics include information sharing, border management, counter-radicalization, criminal investigations and anti-money laundering.

The Task Force's Final Report and accompanying recommendations are expected for release in May 2012. Several of the Task Force's recommendations are summarized below:

Recommendation: Program of Domestication for IGAD Conventions.

Over the course of the Study Tour, the Task Force observed that most IGAD Member States would benefit from broader programmatic efforts to accelerate the domestication of IGAD's Mutual Legal Assistance and Extradition Conventions. The Task Force identified a number of entry points through

which the IGAD Secretariat could assist in paving the way toward implementation, such as targeted sensitization programs to familiarize government practitioners with costs of extra-legal cooperation and benefits of legal cross-border cooperation measures.

Recommendation: Criminal Justice Support to South Sudan and Somalia.

Numerous stakeholders consulted by the Task Force expressed particular concern regarding the ongoing instability in Somalia and South Sudan. Enhancing the capacity of fledgling Somali and South Sudanese police and criminal justice institutions requires special attention by subregional actors. The Task Force recommends that IGAD establish Criminal Justice Support Mechanisms in Somalia and South Sudan as frameworks through which Member States could send criminal justice sector expertise to participate in and support the broader international statebuilding efforts.

Recommendation: Al Shabaab Fusion and Liaison Unit.

There was a consensus amongst those who met with the Task Force of the serious threat Al Shabaab poses to the subregion. The creation of an Al Shabaab Fusion and Liaison Unit under the IGAD Secretariat

could serve as a vital platform for pooling and exchanging information, developing analysis and feeding knowledge products back to Member States. The Unit would be comprised of Liaison Officers seconded from Member State law enforcement and criminal justice institutions sitting together in a joint fusion and liaison center.

Recommendation: Periodic Peer Review and Support System.

The Task Force's consultations with Member State delegations also highlighted the benefits of constructive subregional interaction and mutual support in strengthening the implementation of legal cooperation regimes. The Task Force recommends that States consider establishing an IGAD MLA and Extradition Periodic Peer Review and Support System. Through such a system, Member State legal cooperation infrastructure would be reviewed on a rotating basis by teams of neighbouring State officials. The officials conducting these on-site reviews would compile a confidential assessment that could serve as a crucial tool in developing targeted subregional capacity building support.

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